

## Sixth Grade Summer Reading Booklist

### Required Readings: Choose at least one.

#### **Fantasy**

##### *Easy:*

**The Boggart** by Susan Cooper

After visiting the castle in Scotland which her family has inherited and returning home to Canada, twelve-year-old Emily finds that she has accidentally brought back with her a boggart, an invisible and mischievous spirit with a fondness for practical jokes.

**Princess Sonora and the Long Sleep** by Gail Levine

In this retelling of the fairy tale Sleeping Beauty, Princess Sonora, who is ten times smarter than anyone else, vows to choose for herself the best time to be pricked by the spindle.

##### *Average:*

**Ella Enchanted** by Gail Levine

In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order given to her.

**The Magic Circle** by Donna Jo Napoli

After learning sorcery to become a healer, a good-hearted woman is turned into a witch by evil spirits and she fights their power until her encounter with Hansel and Gretel years later.

##### *Challenging:*

**Golden Compass** by Phil Pullman

Accompanied by her daemon, Lyra Belacqua sets out to prevent her best friend and other kidnapped children from becoming the subject of gruesome experiments in the Far North.

#### **Student Choice:**

Choose one book from the following list to read in addition to the required reading book.

If you read two additional books from the list, you will receive a Bronze Certificate.

If you read three additional books from the list, you will receive a Silver Certificate.

If you read four additional books from the list, you will receive a Gold Certificate.

#### **Traditional**

##### *Average:*

**Gilgamesh** by Geraldine McCaughraen - In this version of the epic, the mythic strongman, whose unrestrained vigor in building his city makes him more tyrant than hero, battles with Enkidu, a "wild man" who signifies the natural, uncivilized world. The two become friends and join in heroic adventures.

##### *Challenging:*

**One Thousand and One Arabian Nights** by Geraldine McCaughraen - Collection of stories told by Shahrazad to her husband King Shahryar in an effort to keep him from having her put to death she tells tales of Sinbad, Ali Baba, and other characters of the desert world.

#### **Fantasy**

##### *Easy, Average, Challenging:*

Any Book from the 'Redwall' series by Brian Jacques

##### *Easy:*

**The Wish** by Gail Carson Levine

When granted her wish to be the most popular girl in school, Wilma, an eighth grader, forgets that she will graduate in three weeks and her popularity will vanish.

##### *Challenging:*

**Wrinkle in Time** by Madeline L'Engle

Three extraterrestrial beings take Meg and her friends to another world.

## **Science Fiction**

### *Average:*

Any book from the '**Replica**' series by Marilyn Kaye

### *Challenging:*

**Ender's Game** by Orson Scott Card

Ender, who is the result of genetic experimentation, may be the military genius Earth needs in its war against an alien enemy.

Any Science Fiction book by Nancy Farmer

## **Realistic Fiction**

### *Easy, Average, Challenging:*

Any '**Alex Ryder Adventure**' by Anthony Horowitz

### *Easy:*

**Cat Running** by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

When eleven-year-old Cat Kinsey builds a secret hideout to escape her unhappy homelife, she slowly gets to know a poor family who have come to California after losing their Texas home to the dust storms of the 1930s.

**Heads or Tails** by Jack Gantos - Jack's diary helps him deal with his problems that include dog-eating alligators, a terror for an older sister, a younger brother who keeps breaking parts of himself, and next-door neighbors who are really weird.

### *Average:*

**Lassie Come Home** by Eric Knight

A collie undertakes a 1000-mile journey in order to once again meet her former master at the school gate.

**Walk Two Moons** by Sharon Creech

After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.

**The View From Saturday** by E.L. Konigsburg

Four students, with their own individual stories, develop a special bond and attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their sixth-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition.

**Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key** by Jack Gantos

Joey Pigza can't sit still. He can't pay attention, he can't follow the rules, and he can't help it -- especially when his meds aren't working. Joey's had problems ever since he was born, problems just like his dad and grandma have.

## **Historical Fiction**

### *Average:*

**The Devil's Arithmetic** by Jane Yolen

Hannah resents stories of her Jewish heritage and of the past until, when opening the door during a Passover Seder, she finds herself in Poland during World War II where she experiences the horrors of a concentration camp, and learns why she-- and we--need to remember the past.

**Girl in Blue** by Ann Rinaldi

To escape an abusive father and an arranged marriage, fourteen-year-old Sarah, dressed as a boy, leaves her Michigan home to enlist in the Union Army, and becomes a soldier on the battlefields of Virginia as well as a Union spy working in the house of Confederate sympathizer Rose O'Neal Greenhow in Washington, D.C.

**Dar and the Spear-Thrower** by Marjorie Cowley - A young Cro-Magnon boy living 15,000 years ago in southeastern France is initiated into manhood by his clan and sets off on a journey to trade his valuable fire rocks for an ivory spear thrower.

*Challenging:*

**Catherine Called Birdy** by Karen Cushman

The daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

**Wild Man Island** – by Will Hobbs – After fourteen-year-old Andy slips away from his kayaking group to visit the wilderness site of his archaeologist father's death, a storm strands him on Admiralty Island, Alaska, where he manages to survive, encounters unexpected animal and human inhabitants, and looks for traces of the earliest prehistoric immigrants to America.

**Mystery**

*Easy:*

**The Dollhouse Murders** by Betty Ren Wright

A dollhouse filled with a ghostly light in the middle of the night, and dolls that have moved from where she last left them, lead Amy and her mentally handicapped sister to unravel the mystery surrounding grisly murders that took place years ago.

Any mystery by John Bellairs

*Average:*

**Holes** by Louis Sachar

As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself.

Any mystery by Joan Nixon

**Poetry**

*Easy:*

**Honey, I Love** by Eloise Greenfield

A collection of sixteen poems that speak of love and the joys of everyday life, as experienced by a child.

*Average:*

**The Dream Keeper** by Langston Hughes

A collection of sixty-six poems, selected by the author for young readers, including lyrical poems, songs, and blues, many exploring the black experience.

**Informational**

*Average:*

Any DK Eyewitness Book about Plants, Chemistry, Human Body

**Biography**

*Average:*

**Hatshepsut, His Majesty Herself** by Catherine M. Andronik - A picture book biography of Hatshepsut, a queen in ancient Egypt who declared herself king and ruled as such for more than twenty years.

Any biography about an archaeologist or poet.

**Autobiography**

*Average:*

**Knots in My Yo-yo String, Autobiography of a Kid** by Jerry Spinelli

This Italian-American Newbery Medalist presents a humorous account of his childhood and youth in Norristown, Pennsylvania.

**Recommended Authors:** Avi, Mildred Taylor, Walter Dean Meyers, Russell Freedman, Sharon Creech, E.L.Konisberg, Kathryn Lasky, J.K.Rowling, Gary Soto, Elizabeth George Speare, Susan Cooper, Louis Sachar, Irene Hunt, Jack Gantos